

**SUMMARY OF THE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
BOARD/COMMITTEE
SPRING PUBLIC HEARING
APRIL 7, 2016**

Attendance and Introductions

County Executive Paul Farrow,
County Board Supervisor and Health and Human Services Board Chair Duane Paulson,
County Board Supervisors Janel Brandtjen, Christine Howard, Larry Nelson, and William Zaborowski,
Health and Human Services Board Citizen Member Michael O'Brien,
Health and Human Services Department Director Antwayne Robertson.

County Board Supervisor Duane Paulson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. He thanked everyone for attending. This important forum is hosted annually to receive information from the public, non-profits, clients, and tax payers to help guide the budgeting process. Feedback on what services are important and how to best serve the community is critical to the process. The Health and Human Services budget is approximately 25% of the tax levy and is the second largest part of the county's total budget. The HHS Board collects information from the Public Hearing and forwards recommendations to the County Executive. The people who are on the committees are the ones who decide what is going to be in the budget.

County Executive Paul Farrow welcomed and thanked everyone for attending. This is an opportunity to give a voice to all of the concerns he works on throughout the year. As he enters his second year in office, coming up April 21, the County Executive Paul Farrow is looking forward to hearing as much as possible. He's taken time over the last year visiting various agencies in the county to listen to what's going on. The HHS budget is a significant part of the overall budget and he wants ensure the dollars are going where needed.

Below are summaries of each Speaker's comments.

SPEAKER #1 Sarah Carpenter, Wisconsin Community Service (WCS) is grateful for the opportunity to speak regarding their services. She is an administrator with the agency and has been employed there for 26 years. She is proud to have clients with her this evening who have benefited from the services. She highlighted important points in the attached written testimonial.

Sarah Carpenter referenced a Drug Treatment Court (DTC) client who planned to speak this evening, Ashley, and noted the state (DTC) grant ends December 31, 2016 which supplies half the amount to the budget, and the federal grant ends September 30, 2017.

SPEAKER #2 Lisa commented on her struggles with alcoholism for many years, went through the Alcohol Treatment Program in 2009 after her third OWI and was sober for almost three years. Lisa referenced her relapse that resulted in the loss of her home and family, but continued to believe she had things under control, then she got her fourth OWI. She was sentenced and thankfully was readmitted into the program. Lisa graduated last July and has been sober for

almost two years. Relationships with her family have been restored and she is happy. She continues to attend meetings and takes things one day at a time. The program holds people accountable and it works. She hopes a person gets the help he/she needs.

SPEAKER #3, Ashley struggled with heroin for nine years and was in legal trouble during that time. She was homeless, lost her family, and pretty much everything. Ashley was admitted into the Drug Court Program and was not ready; thought she could beat the system. She couldn't because she was put on daily testing, daily meetings, and sent to jail for sanctions. Finally, she was given the option to go to treatment. She got kicked out and went to jail for two weeks. She did a lot of thinking during that time. She was given one last chance and was put on Vivitrol, a shot that blocks opiate sensations. She eventually decided to invest in the program by attending meetings, got a sponsor, and did well. By the time she graduated drug court she was so involved with AA and she loves her new life. She's learned how to be honest with herself and be accountable. Ashley could not have found sobriety and a new life without Drug Court and is very grateful.

SPEAKER #4 Susan L., SPEAKER #5 Carl L., SPEAKER #6 Dr. Ken S. and SPEAKER #7 Mike L. are part of the Waukesha Health Care Initiative, a coalition of three grassroots groups; Grassroots Waukesha, SOPHIA, and Citizen Action Organizing Cooperative. They each presented observations and recommendations they believe would improve access to, the quality, and the cost of health care for Waukesha County residents. They are asking the County Board to draft resolutions calling on the State of Wisconsin to accept the federal Medicaid funding and to work with locally elected leaders to advance legislation through to help with this effort. Attached is an outline of their presentation.

SPEAKER #8 Rebecca thanked the board for providing this forum. She and her husband have been New Berlin residents for 19 years. She expressed lament about the possibility of the further defunding of the alcohol and drug treatment courts. This is a public health issue. It is essential that Waukesha County treat people with substance abuse problems as human beings and not just as criminals to be punished. Addressing substance abuse punitively, and not addressing the underlying problem is a bad idea for many reasons she explained. Please consider running these CJCC programs as a smart investment in the community.

SPEAKER #9 Michele spoke about her experience with the Spring City Corner Clubhouse. Mental illness has affected her life for forty years. She became depressed and isolated herself, which made her feel worse. The Clubhouse boosted her mood and self-esteem, provided her encouragement and motivation for the future. None of her current successes would have been possible without the support of the Clubhouse.

SPEAKER #10 Tiffany thanked the board for allowing her to speak about the Spring City Corner Clubhouse. Tiffany commented on all the things she has learned through Clubhouse and how much it has helped her through her recovery by learning job skills, communication and connecting with people. She thanked the board for their support of the Clubhouse and knows their continued support will help many people.

SPEAKER #11 **Lucas** has been a member of the Spring City Corner Clubhouse for about two and a half years. He remarked on the ways Clubhouse has helped him through his recovery. There are many things he can do to help at Clubhouse and there are people who share his interests and struggles. Lucas was successful in finding a job that he likes. He feels happier.

SPEAKER #12, **Scott** spoke to the Health Care Act. The Affordable Care Act is not affordable and there are unmet health care needs. He is part owner of a small business and their healthcare costs have increased substantially over the last two years. However, he doesn't think the county should encourage the state to take the federal funding, because that funding could dry up, and then where will we be. The federal government (ACA) is not doing what they promised with this healthcare bill.

SPEAKER #13, **Joel** chair of SOPHIA'S Treatment Instead of Prison (TIP) task force. He stated that the CJCC is going in the wrong direction. He distributed copies of pages taken from the county's 2016 budget book referencing percentage decreases in the Intoxicated Driver Intervention Program - Jail Days Saved, Jail Days Saved for all Programs and the Total Participants Served, and concluded with suggestions of how to reverse the trend and adequately, publically fund the CJCC (attached).

SPEAKER #14, **Liza** a member of Citizen Action of Wisconsin, supported previous speakers who commented on affordable and accessible health care. She is a social worker in a community clinic in Milwaukee and related stories of people who don't have a primary doctor, don't receive proper medical care, and are under or uninsured. Liza advocated for preventative care services.

SPEAKER #15, **Colleen** read a letter from St. Vincent de Paul Waukesha County Chair (attached). The organization's letter referenced the effects of poverty in our community. They asked the county to pass a resolution in favor of the State accepting the additional Medicaid funds as 21 other counties and the Wisconsin Counties Association have already done.

Summary and Closing

Duane Paulson, Health and Human Services Board Chair, thanked everyone for attending. Their voices are heard.

The hearing concluded at 7:56 p.m.